

Tracker Talk



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NEW VACCINE FOR HPV!

On June 29, 2006, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend that the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine be routinely given to girls eleven to twelve years of age. The recommendation also allows for vaccination of girls beginning at nine years and supports vaccination from thirteen to twenty-six years. Additionally, the ACIP passed a resolution that included the HPV vaccine in the Vaccines for Children program for children age nine through eighteen years.

Gardasil, manufactured by Merck & Co., protects against four types of the HPV virus including two that cause approximately seventy percent of cervical cancer cases. HPV may also cause pre-cancerous lesions and genital warts. This sexually-transmitted virus has become increasingly more prevalent among young women in recent years. According to the CDC, the HPV virus is the most common sexually transmitted infection in the U.S., affecting nearly 6.2 million Americans annually. For more information visit:

www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/hpv/default.htm.

Back-to-School Checklist Now Includes Tdap for Entering Sixth Graders

During the 2006 General Assembly, Virginia passed new legislation requiring students to receive a booster dose of the tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine prior to sixth grade entry. This new requirement was put into effect on July 1, 2006. The Department of Education strongly advises parents to make sure their child receives this vaccine BEFORE school starts.

For a summary of all current requirements visit the VDH Division of Immunization website at:

www.vdh.virginia.gov/imm/index.asp.



August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). NIAM was created to call attention to the importance of immunizing individuals of all ages to prevent serious, life-threatening diseases. During this time of year, parents are enrolling their children in school, students are entering college, and healthcare workers are preparing for the upcoming flu season. August presents a perfect time to encourage family, friends, co-workers, and community members to catch-up on their vaccinations.

The National Partnership for Immunization has posted a range of promotional materials for NIAM on their website at: www.partnersforimmunization.org/niam.cfm.

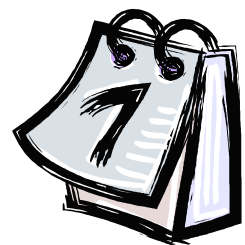
ACIP Recommends Changes in Varicella Vaccinations

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued a new recommendation for a second dose of varicella vaccine in children four to six years of age to provide further protection against chickenpox. Additionally, children, adolescents, and adults who previously received one dose of the vaccine should receive a second dose. The CDC reports that fifteen to twenty percent of children who have received one dose of the vaccine are not fully protected and may develop chickenpox after coming in contact with the varicella zoster virus. These new recommendations were implemented as a result of varicella outbreaks among vaccinated children in recent years.

For more information about these new recommendations, visit: www.cdc.gov/nip/menus/vaccines.htm#varicella.

Mark Your Calendars for 2006

- ☑ PIV Quarterly Meetings – July 14; October 6
- ☑ National Immunization Awareness Month – August
- ☑ 7th National Conference on Immunization Coalitions – August 9-11, Denver, CO
- ☑ National Adult Immunization Awareness Week – September 24-30



Setting a Standard for Influenza Vaccination in Healthcare Workers

Upon implementing recommendations from the CDC, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) announced the approval of an infection control standard pertaining to influenza vaccinations. This standard, effective January 1, 2007, requires accredited organizations to offer vaccinations to staff, including volunteers, and licensed independent practitioners who have close patient contact. JCAHO developed this standard with the primary goal of reducing the transmission of influenza from healthcare professionals to patients, which is a top priority in the United States. Annually, fewer than thirty-six percent of healthcare workers are immunized against influenza. Additional information is available through the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases at: www.nfid.org.

PIV Bids Farewell to Long-Time Staffer and Friend



Passing the baton. Nancy Stromann (left) leaves PIV in good hands with new Research Assistant Cristi Carlton (right).

In April, PIV's long-time comrade Nancy Stromann resigned her position as Research Assistant to take on a new challenge as the Health Professions Supervisor at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS). This new position has Nancy working alongside another long-time PIV friend and former Coalition Coordinator, Clint Crews. Nancy is succeeded by new Virginian Cristi Carlton who moved to Norfolk from Michigan last summer to begin studies in the EVMS-ODU Master of Public Health Program. In June, Cristi was hired to be PIV's full-time Research Assistant and has already become well versed in PIV's many projects, history, and endless sets of acronyms.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

Registration is still open for the 7th National Conference on Immunization Coalitions, which will be held August 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in beautiful Denver, Colorado. This year's conference offers training on how to create, lead, and sustain effective coalitions for ALL health related issues. Register online today at: www.seeuthere.com/rsvp/invitation/invitation.asp?id=/m2c666-455170415278



Program Spotlight

Consortium for Infant and Child Health (CINCH)



CINCH is a community-based partnership that seeks to improve health and prevent disease among children in Hampton Roads. In 1993, CINCH began its work as part of a CDC Demonstration Project to determine if community coalitions were effective agents to change immunization-related health behaviors. Thirteen years and many other child health topics later, CINCH is still going strong and is the region's premier child health organization.

CINCH works to address several issues surrounding asthma, immunizations, perinatal health, obesity prevention, injury prevention, and health disparities. Topics are typically addressed through individual workgroups such as the Immunization Service Providers (ISP) Workgroup, which coordinates the Vaccine Update Conference, as well as other community programs.

The ISP Workgroup strives to improve the knowledge and practices of healthcare providers to eliminate barriers that contribute to under-immunization. This group spends most of its time working with PIV to plan the 2007 Vaccine Update Conference as well as other programs to improve immunization record keeping in daycares, address the issue of vaccine myths and anti-vaccine campaigns, and reduce the spread of infection.

For more information, contact Tricia Daniels at 757-668-6426 or by email at: DanielpD@evms.edu.

National Adult Immunization Awareness Week September 24-30, 2006

This year marks the nineteenth consecutive observance of National Adult Immunization Awareness Week (NAIAW) Week, which is hosted by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases' National Coalition for Adult Immunization. This group leads the annual observance to coordinate awareness-raising activities that promote the importance of adult immunization. For more information and for NAIAW campaign materials, visit: www.nfid.org/ncai/.



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